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RCA-09/0043/69

[redacted]

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

NATIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
CENTER

25X1

[redacted]

PRIMORSK ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY

25X1A [redacted]

STRATEGIC WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

USSR

MAY 1969

COPY NO. 102

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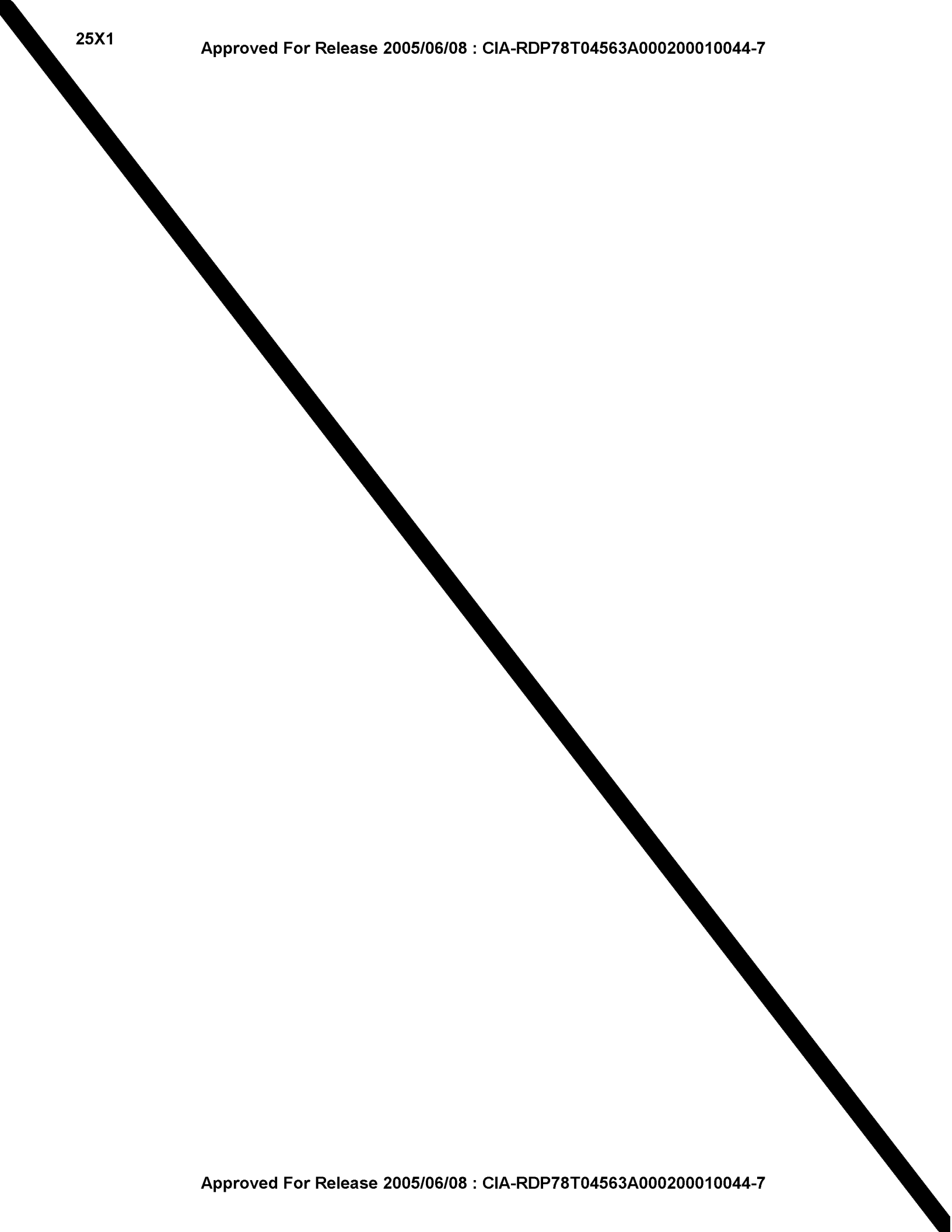

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TITLE SEC. CLASS LOCATION

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME
Primorsk Rocket Engine Test Facility

COUNTRY
UR

UTM COORDINATES
NA

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
60-18-32N 028-51-35E

25X1A

MAP REFERENCE
ACIC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0103-24, 4th ed, Jan 66, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

25X1D

ABSTRACT

The specific functions of the Primorsk Rocket Engine Test Facility, USSR, have not been determined. However, the large and dispersed capacity for handling and storing propellants and the availability of building space which could be used for testing propellants suggest that propellants research and development may be one of the important functions of the facility. The separate facilities for transferring, piping, and storing the various probable propellants suggest that they may be hypergolic.

This report describes the construction at the facility [redacted] 25X1D
25X1D [redacted] Nearly all the construction during this period was in Area D, one of two areas
25X1D which were not yet operational [redacted] The structures in these two areas (D and E) indicate that the facility will support a new or larger research and development program in the future. Area C appears to be the area in which the probable propellants research and development has been carried out.

This report contains a line drawing showing pipelines and construction chronology at the facility, with a table of mensural data on the new construction. Information in
1 the report is current through [redacted] photography [redacted] 25X1D

INTRODUCTION

The Primorsk Rocket Engine Test Facility is approximately 10 nautical miles (nm) by rail southeast of the city of Primorsk. The facility, which consists of five areas designated A through E, covers approximately 125 acres and is situated on a narrow strip of land between Lake Vysokinskoye and the Gulf of Finland.

This report updates a previous report 1/ containing information covering the period
25X1D [redacted] when the facility was first observed, [redacted] Photography 25X1D
25X1D subsequent to [redacted] has allowed a reassessment of the function of some structures in Area C and has revealed that most of the new construction has occurred in Area D.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

The physical appearance of the facility (Figure 1) has not changed greatly since
25X1D [redacted] Construction in Area D has progressed. The possible control building (item 70) for the test stand (item 71) apparently is undergoing extensive modifications. This building, in its original form,
25X1D was present [redacted] It is possible, however, that the previously designated possible fuel handling building (item 72) will be the control building for the test stand.

The area identified as a possible pressure gas bottle farm under construction (item 74) now has 14 tanks installed and mountings for two additional tanks. The total capacity of this tank farm is approximately 42,000 cubic feet, with a capacity of approximately 6,000 cubic feet probably to be added. The tank farm may function as a pressure gas storage area or as a fuel or oxidizer storage area. Another possible future position for storage tanks (item 69) is north of the test stand. If tanks are installed at this position, the two areas (items 69 and 74) may comprise separate storage facilities for fuel and oxidizer.

Construction continues on a possible checkout/assembly bay (item 75) and on the attached possible engineering/laboratory bay (item 77). A tall stack has been constructed on the east side of the possible engineering/laboratory bay. The function of a building
25X1D (item 78), which was nearly complete [redacted] is not yet apparent [redacted] 25X1D
25X1D [redacted] concrete has been poured for the lower part of the flame deflector at the test stand (item 71).

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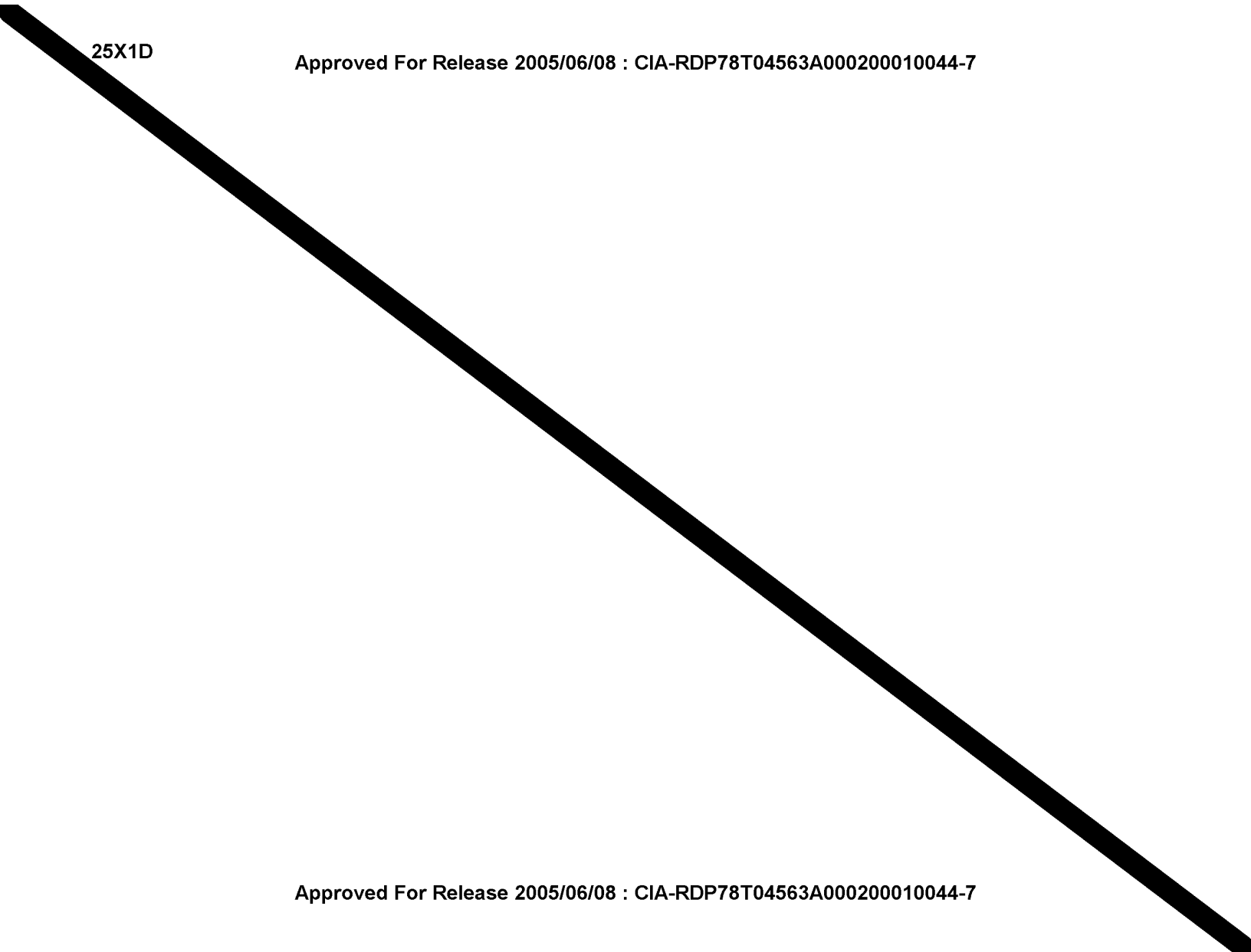

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New structures in Area D are an unidentified building (item 99) in an early stage of construction, with a high vent stack near its north side, and a small probable pumphouse (item 101).

Chronological Development

25X1D During the period a total of 29,608 square feet of roof cover was constructed or under construction, nearly all in Area D. An unidentified building (item 100) has been constructed in Area E. There will presumably be further construction in both Areas D and E, as neither area was operational 25X1D

25X1D

Construction at Primorsk Rocket Engine Test Facility 25X1D

Item	Description*
70	Poss control bldg
75	Poss checkout/assembly bay
77	Poss engineering/lab bay
78	Test support bldg
99	Unidentified bldg under construction
100	Unidentified bldg
101	Prob pumphouse

25X1D

25X1D

*The interpretation of the function of some items has been modified or changed since the previous report.

Production

There has not been any conclusive photographic evidence of the specific function of the Primorsk facility. However, the large and dispersed capacity for handling and storing propellants and the availability of building space which could be used for testing propellants suggest that the facility is a propellants research and development facility. The test stand and supporting structures in Area D, as well as the structures in Area E, will probably support a future new or larger research and development program.

Area C appears to be the area in which propellants research and development has been carried out, if this is the function of the Primorsk facility. Propellants appear to be delivered to Area C from three separate sources and apparently they are stored in separate areas. The separate facilities for transferring, piping, and storing the probable propellants suggest the possibility that they are hypergolic. Fuels may be both piped to Area C from the rail-served possible fuel handling building (item 17) and delivered by truck directly to the vicinity of the possible propellant storage/laboratory building (item 51). Oxidizer may be piped from rail tank cars at the probable propellant transfer point (item 65).

The tanks (item 53) in one part of Area C have more than twice the storage capacity of the tanks (item 50) in another part of the same area. Since propellant combinations usually consist of more oxidizer than fuel, the larger capacity tankage (item 53) possibly contains oxidizer and the smaller capacity tankage (item 50) may contain fuel. The pattern of pipelines around the structures west of the possible components test building (item 48) suggests that the structures serve as a fuels distribution point.

It is estimated that Area C contains at least two test buildings (items 48 and 56) as well as several buildings which are possibly propellants laboratories (items 44, 49, 51, and 54). A possible propellants test structure (item 55) has not been seen clearly on photography to date.

REFERENCES

25X1D [redacted]

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0103-24, 4th ed, Jan 66, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENT

25X1 1. NPIC. [redacted] Chronology of the Rocket Engine Test Facility, Primorsk, USSR, Mar 68 (TOP
25X1 SECRET [redacted]

REQUIREMENT

COMIREX BR-J/002-69

NPIC Project 210417

25X1D [redacted]